

(2) The owner has statutory rights or defenses that would show to a substantial probability that the owner would prevail on the issue of forfeiture;

(3) The owner reasonably attempted to ascertain the use of the conveyance in a normal and customary manner; and

(4) The owner did not know or consent to the illegal use of the conveyance; or in the event that the owner knew or should have known of the illegal use, the owner did what reasonably could be expected to prevent the violation.

(c) A petition for expedited release must be filed in a timely manner in order to be considered by the United States Attorney. To be considered as filed in a timely manner, the petition must be received by the appropriate United States Attorney within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice of the action and arrest of the property, or within 30 days after filing of the claim, whichever occurs later. The petition must be executed and sworn to by the owner, and both the envelope and the request must be clearly marked "PETITION FOR EXPEDITED RELEASE." Such petition shall be filed in triplicate and addressed to and filed with the United States Attorney prosecuting the conveyance for forfeiture with a copy to the seizing agency.

(d) The petition shall include the following:

(1) A complete description of the conveyance, including the identification number, and the date and place of seizure;

(2) The petitioner's interest in the conveyance, which shall be supported by bills of sale, contracts, mortgages, or other satisfactory documentary evidence; and,

(3) The facts and circumstances, to be established by satisfactory proof, relied upon by the petitioner to justify expedited release of the seized conveyance.

§ 1316.96 Ruling on a petition for expedited release of a conveyance in a judicial forfeiture action.

(a) Upon receipt of a petition for expedited release filed pursuant to § 1316.95, the United States Attorney shall rule on the petition within 20

days of receipt. A petition shall be deemed filed on the date it is received by the United States Attorney.

(b) If the United States Attorney does not rule on the petition for expedited release within 20 days after the date on which it is filed, the conveyance shall be returned to the owner or interested party pending further forfeiture proceedings, except where it is evidence of a violation of law. Release of conveyance under provisions of this paragraph shall not affect the forfeiture action with respect to that conveyance.

(c) Upon a favorable ruling on the petition for expedited release, the United States Attorney shall, where necessary, move to terminate the judicial proceedings against the conveyance and immediately direct the return of the conveyance except where it is evidence of a violation of law.

(d) If, within 20 days, the United States Attorney denies the petition for expedited release, the government shall retain possession of the conveyance until the owner provides a substitute res bond pursuant to § 1316.98 or the forfeiture is finalized.

§ 1316.97 Initiating judicial forfeiture proceeding against a conveyance within 60 days of the filing of a claim and cost bond.

(a) The United States Attorney shall file a complaint for forfeiture of the conveyance within 60 days of the filing of the claim and cost bond.

(b) Upon the failure of the United States Attorney to file a complaint for forfeiture of a conveyance within 60 days unless the court extends the 60-day period following a showing of good cause, or unless the owner and the United States Attorney agree to such an extension, the court shall order the return of the conveyance and the return of any bond.

§ 1316.98 Substitute res bond in a judicial forfeiture action against a conveyance.

(a) Where a conveyance is being forfeited in a judicial proceeding for a drug-related offense, the owner may obtain release of the property by filing a substitute res bond with the seizing agency. The conveyance will be released to the owner upon the payment